AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A method of providing left side cardiac support comprising:

providing a fluid source;

introducing a fluid delivery conduit into the left atrium, the fluid delivery conduit being in communication with the ~~a~~ fluid source, the fluid source being external of the ~~said~~ fluid delivery conduit, the fluid delivery conduit further including an opening and a hemostatic seal sealing the opening;

introducing an intake cannula through the hemostatic seal and opening of the fluid delivery conduit and into the left ventricle, the intake cannula being coupled to a blood pump;

operating the blood pump to intake blood from the left ventricle through the intake cannula, and

delivering fluid from the fluid source through the fluid delivery conduit into the left atrium when a condition of negative pressure exists in the left atrium;

wherein said fluid delivery conduit remains in communication with said fluid source during said introducing, said operating and said delivering fluid steps.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the delivery of fluid reduces a pressure differential between a location within the left atrium and the air outside of the heart.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the delivery of fluid eliminates a pressure differential between a location within the left atrium and the air outside of the heart.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the intake cannula is disposed in a generally coaxial fashion within the fluid delivery conduit.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the intake cannula is introduced into the left ventricle by insertion through the left atrium and passage through the mitral valve.

Claims 7-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the fluid source is a liquid source.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the fluid source is a saline source.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said delivering fluid from the fluid source through the fluid delivery conduit into the left atrium comprises drawing the fluid into the left atrium, wherein the condition of negative pressure existing within the left atrium comprises a pressure lower than ambient pressure and wherein the fluid source is at ambient pressure.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein a distal end of the fluid delivery conduit is positioned to terminate in the left atrium.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of providing left side cardiac support comprising:

providing a fluid source;

introducing a fluid delivery conduit into the left atrium and positioning the fluid delivery conduit so that a distal end thereof terminates in the left atrium, the fluid delivery conduit being in fluid communication with the ~~a~~ fluid source via a supply conduit extending between the ~~said~~ fluid delivery conduit and the ~~said~~ fluid source , the fluid delivery conduit further including an opening and a hemostatic seal sealing the opening;

introducing an intake cannula through the hemostatic seal and opening of the fluid delivery conduit and into the left ventricle;

intaking blood from the left ventricle through the intake cannula, and

delivering fluid from the fluid source through the fluid delivery conduit into the left atrium when a condition of negative pressure exists in the left atrium.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the fluid source is connected to the fluid delivery conduit external of the intake cannula.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the fluid source is connected to the fluid delivery conduit external of the fluid delivery conduit.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of providing left side cardiac support comprising:

providing a fluid source;

introducing a fluid delivery conduit into the left atrium, the fluid delivery conduit being in communication with the ~~a~~ fluid source via a supply conduit interconnecting the ~~said~~ fluid delivery conduit and the ~~said~~ fluid source, the fluid delivery conduit further including an opening and a hemostatic seal sealing the opening;

introducing an intake cannula through the hemostatic seal and opening of the fluid delivery conduit and into the left ventricle, the intake cannula being coupled to a blood pump;

operating the blood pump to intake blood from the left ventricle through the intake cannula, and

delivering fluid from the fluid source through the fluid delivery conduit into the left atrium when a condition of negative pressure exists in the left atrium.